



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6001
7 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - December 1985

I. GENERAL

1. Fifteen of the Bureau's local employees and three staffers -- the Bureau Chief, Senior Editor [redacted] and editor [redacted] -- participated on 7 December in a VIP tour and briefings at the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom and one of the tunnels dug by the DPRK under the DMZ. The tour was arranged by one of the Bureau's contacts at the UN Command Military Armistice Commission, in appreciation for the service the Bureau provides UNCMAC. Korean citizens normally are not allowed to visit the DMZ, so the occasion provided a rare opportunity for local employees to see the area. Participants in the tour were able to visit the conference room where MAC meetings are held -- and stare at stone-faced North Korean Army guards who were watching the visitors through a window only five or six feet away. Lungs and legs were tested rigorously at the tunnel, which can only be entered by descending (and later ascending) a steep and sometimes slippery access tunnel that drops some 250 vertical feet in about 200 yards. This visit is a good example of the close relationship that has developed between the Bureau and UNCMAC over the years. The tour was laid on with a single phone call and minimal follow-up: Embassy locals have never been afforded a similar opportunity because Embassy officers would have to go through an intimidating labyrinth of bureaucratic channels before getting approval for local employees to enter the DMZ. UNCMAC's willingness to lay on such a tour for FBIS is a testimony to the continuing service it receives from the Bureau.

2. The DODDS high school, Seoul American, which is attended by most children of military and Embassy parents in the Seoul area, has received the Department of Education "Excellence in Education" award for 1985. Seoul American is the first DODDS school in the Pacific to receive this prestigious award. The award program, now in its third year, honors selected schools with national recognition for outstanding academic achievements. SAHS is one of 212 schools to receive the award for 1985, only three of which were DODDS schools. Overall test scores at the school were 34 points above the national average on the verbal section of the 1985 Scholastic Aptitude Test, and 22 points above the national average on the mathematics section of the SAT.

3. Seoul is now in the grip of the coldest weather in the past 15 years. On 3 January the city was blanketed with about four inches of snow, followed by a cold wave that has brought temperatures at night down to a few degrees below zero. The low temperatures and accompanying north winds have brought a wind chill factor of -25 degrees. Icy roads throughout the country have caused many accidents and monumental traffic jams, and Kimpo Airport was closed for 18 hours on the 3d and 4th after a Saudi airliner slid off the snow-covered main runway and became stuck in freezing mud. The current cold snap is expected to last for several more days at least, and the Korean weather service is predicting one of the coldest winters since the Korean War.

II. OPERATIONS

Editorial/Monitorial

1. In statements since 1 January by the heads of the DPRK delegations to the Red Cross, economic and parliamentary talks, and at the 3 January MAC meeting in Pannunjom, Pyongyang has laid the groundwork for a propaganda campaign against this year's "Team Spirit" military exercises. The delegation leaders and DPRK MAC senior delegate all have pointed to the incompatibility of continued North-South talks and military exercises. This year's "Team Spirit" is slated to be held as usual from February through April, though dates have not yet been formally announced. Last year Pyongyang canceled all talks for months due to the exercise. The DPRK in mid-January began a propaganda blitz denouncing the exercise, including almost daily editorials and commentaries. We expect a similar outpouring of protest this year.

2. In early December the Bureau began using a "black box" device to facilitate preparation of KCNA logs. Adapted from Okinawa Bureau's automatic logging system for XINHUA English transmissions, the device prints out the KCNA item numbers, headlines, and the first paragraph of each item. A reprocessor cuts a tape of all entries; to complete the log all the editors have to add is the length and disposition of items. The device works very well when reception is good, but KCNA reception varies widely. The logs still must be prepared manually when reception is poor.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. After meetings in November of the Bureau's Evaluation and Promotions Subpanels, a combination Christmas party and award ceremony was held on the 19th. Korean monitor [redacted] Technician [redacted] and Communicator [redacted] received promotions; and Korean Unit Chief [redacted] Chinese Monitor [redacted] and Communicator [redacted] received quality step increases in recognition of superior performance.

2. Korean monitor [redacted] has been on extended sick leave since 13 December. [redacted] was hospitalized with a thyroid condition for over two weeks, and is now recuperating at home. He hopes to return to work, on at least a part-time basis, on 13 January.

IV. VISITS

Lieutenant Commander Caroline Lane, UN Command Military Armistice Commission liaison officer, visited the Bureau on 30 December for a briefing and tour of the facilities. LCDR Lane was in Seoul during the late 1970's on a previous assignment, during which she says she was an "avid reader" of the Bureau file. In her present assignment she will occasionally be filling in for UNCMAC Special Adviser Jimmy Lee, the Bureau's primary contact at UNCMAC.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment
Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for December 1983

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	505280
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	144870
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1279

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min.	5510.00 min.	127.46 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Korean	1900		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	700		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	8470		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	16570		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	14140		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	16120		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	14070		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	6850		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	7970		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			5500

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			2200
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			400
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese			2350
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			0
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			4800
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			5500
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			8500
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	18200	--	
KOREA (NORTH) Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	119070		
Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in Korean	0		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		108540	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			15250
KOREA (SOUTH) Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	6400		
Seoul YONHAP in English		34130	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			2700
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			1900
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			300
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			400
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			0
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			37300

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			36630
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			2870
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	1850		